

9315 Swanson Road
 Sumas, Washington 98295
 May 1, 2000

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EFSEC Manager
 P.O. Box 43172
 Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
 EVALUATION COUNCIL

Dear Allen Fiksdal:

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to consider the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE in regards to the proposed 660 megawatt power plant in Sumas. This would be the best action in regard to the citizens of Sumas and the Whatcom County area because of the major concerns citizens have about detrimental environmental impact.

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✓ The Sumas Environmental Impact Statement is intimidating simply by its size and volume. To digest and investigate how all of my concerns are dealt with in an environmentally safe manner has been impossible given the time I have available.

I have listed most of my concerns below with some explanation about each for your consideration.

1. Noise-The way I read appendage B, we are already exceeding the decibel level with the smaller co-generation plant that is already in existence. 2
2. Magnetic Field- The proposed Whatcom County power lines go right by our house, and my understanding is that because of the county restrictions on the size of the wire, the size of the electromagnetic field will be larger because of a larger wattage being carried. [I have a friend who lives under power lines in Whatcom County, who sold his house because he believes the three examples of cancer in his immediate family are related to the electromagnetic field above his home.] 3
3. Air emissions-Three tons/day of poisonous or noxious fumes are considerable. Members of my family and myself have asthma conditions and are worried about being down wind. 4
4. Water-Besides the fact that no one knows how much water is available in the Sumas wells, the wastewater will eventually end up in the Frazer River. 1.2 million gallons a day is a huge amount. We have a good well not far from the Sumas aquifer. Will the removal of such a large quantity of water from the Sumas aquifer effect the surrounding wells? 5
5. Flood plain-the huge amount of fill necessary for the construction of the plant could effect the fragile flood plain, and we won't know until we have a flood, and by then its too late. 6
6. Backup storage-The storage of large volumes of Diesel for back-up power is a potential threat to the environment. 7

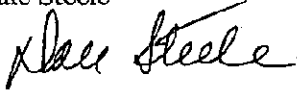
There are other concerns that I have, about the possible increase in electrical power rates for county users, the huge profits that would be generated and the unanswered question:

DO WE REALLY NEED THE POWER? Why was the smaller plant closed down for three and a half months last year? Maintenance? Would the maintenance time been as long if the power were really needed?

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Our area is sparsely populated and yet there were over 160 concerned citizens at the last hearing in Sumas. The concerns I have listed here are representative of many of the concerns of neighbors and friends in the area. On their and my behalf, I strongly urge you to consider the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE as the best one for the people of the Sumas and Whatcom county area.

Sincerely yours,
Dale Steele

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Steele". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Dale Steele".